

withholding to 'bondage' a child of an 'vagrant', note  
 vagrants in this period were not allowed unless by official  
 permission to leave their district/parish. ~~as what was~~  
~~known as~~ They other types of bondage that were  
 common place among the poor children, was to be  
 formally placed with a "master" known as an apprenticeship  
 from the age of 7 until 24 (later by 19<sup>th</sup> century 10 and 21).  
 "Many children were sent miles away from home to work as  
 cheap labour in factories or merely as unpaid servants. Other  
 pauper children were contracted out to local families for  
 a period of 7 years and used by the master as menial, low  
 paid labour" ("Apprenticeship Indentures, Parish (Poor Law).

[www.genguide.co.uk/source/apprenticeship-indentures-parish-poor-law/42/](http://www.genguide.co.uk/source/apprenticeship-indentures-parish-poor-law/42/)

In regard to the mental wellbeing of children in England  
 during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, it is alarming to learn  
 suicide rates were "relatively high" and that "Children and  
 adolescents frequently killed themselves to evade punishment  
 for some fault" (Pieter Spierenburg, The Broken Spell,  
 A Cultural + Anthropological History of ~~Preindustrial~~ Preindustrial  
 Europe, P253, 1991). This area is of great concern today  
 as I will discuss in relation to campaigns launched by  
 the World Health Organisation. In regard to the  
 children of the poor, the following quote serves as a  
 good example of how they were seen by established authority  
 and might illuminate in some way the prejudice that  
 was ~~for~~ a force against them,

"The care and the training of children are matters which  
 should receive the anxious attention of Guardians. Pauperism  
 is in the blood, and there is no more effectual means  
 of checking its hereditary nature than by doing all  
 in our power to bring up our pauper children in  
 such a manner as to make them God-fearing,  
 useful and healthy members of Society."

The poor law handbook of Poor Law Officers' Journal